



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Fort Worth District

News Release

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Corps of Engineers at Lake O' the Pines ensures good water quality

FORT WORTH, TX - Due to the number of recent inquiries concerning water quality at Lake O' the Pines, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, wishes to inform the public that there is no known reason for concern about dangerous levels of E. coli bacteria in the lake.

Officials with the Corps of Engineers report that the only testing for E. coli at Lake O' the Pines in recent years was in conjunction with a water quality investigation by the Corps, between February 1999 and August 2001, with the report published in February 2002. During the three-year period, E. coli testing was conducted at three locations in the lake. The results of these tests ranged between 1 and 6 colonies per 100 ml, far below the screening level of 394 colonies per 100 ml set by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC). The February 2002 report concluded that the water quality at Lake O' the Pines was consistent and generally good, and had actually improved over the last water quality investigation period from February 1975 to September 1984.

During the peak recreation season, from May to September, the Corps regularly monitors water quality at all designated beaches on the lake to ensure that the quality is adequate for recreation use and meets the minimum requirements as prescribed by the TNRCC. In conjunction with this requirement for testing recreation waters, fecal coliform samples are collected and tested on a weekly basis. Should tests fail to meet the Texas

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Surface Water Quality Standards as prescribed by TNRCC, the beaches would be posted closed and the public informed of this closure. The beaches would remain closed until retesting confirms that the water quality is safe for recreation.

The public should keep in mind, however, that there is always some risk of contacting a waterborne disease in any body of water even though water quality is considered good and tests are within prescribed limits. Each individual should consider this risk prior to entering the water of any lake or stream.

The Corps of Engineers invites everyone in the vicinity of Jefferson, Texas to visit Lake O' the Pines on the 4th of July holiday.

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Check out the Fort Worth District Web Site at
<http://www.swf.usace.army.mil>